

used with staffs of mental hospitals and community mental health centers. The film should be seen more than once for maximum effectiveness, because it is so rich in detail. Not the least of the film's riches is the brief appearance of the controversial but undeniably charismatic Dr. Laing himself.

HELPING THE CHRONIC PATIENT (25 minutes, black and white, 1973). Produced by Harry Henderson for World Wide Medical Press. Available on loan from Hoffmann-LaRoche representatives; members of the Hospital & Community Psychiatry Service may obtain the film from the service's film library.

Reviewed by Jack Neher

Some innovative techniques for helping chronic patients toward a more acceptable life are illustrated in this new film from the series *Roche Report: Frontiers of Psychiatry on Camera*. The film also provides a more than casual look at Denver's Fort Logan Mental Health Center, with the center's director, Dr. Ethel M. Bonn, as guide.

Pointing out that mental illness is not "primarily medical" but a condition that touches virtually every aspect of human life, Dr. Bonn proceeds to show how she and her staff treat the 1500 patients. Most of them are chronic in the sense that mental illness or emotional problems have diminished their social or vocational capacities. But fewer than 200 of the patients live on the premises. Some live by themselves or with their families, and some in small groups in the community; others receive aftercare in nursing homes. To assure continuity of care, the center provides training programs for the staffs of such nursing homes and other community facilities.

In their relationships with the patients, the staff members guard against setting unrealistic goals; they offer no magic, no sure cures, but they do assure each patient of close, continuing contact. Various kinds of group process and behavior modification therapies are demonstrated, including a transactional analysis group made up of alcoholics who are "writing a new script" for their lives. Recreational and activity therapy, psychodrama, home visits to families, and self-confrontation by means of videotape are also included.

In purely statistical terms the program has been successful in maintaining patients in the community. But the dedicated staff make it clear that they consider their achievements in reversing the process of deterioration to be of paramount importance.

The film could be shown to the general public, including high school students, to provide information on the nature and functions of the community mental health center and to help recruit staff or volunteers. It could also be used inside mental hospitals and centers as an orientation and training film for new staff.

MISCELLANY

PSYCHOSOCIAL NURSING CARE OF THE AGED—edited by Irene Mortenson Burnside, R.N., M.S.; McGraw-Hill, New York City, 1973, 214 pages, \$4.95 paperbound.

This book is a collection of papers written by nurses working to upgrade the psychosocial care of the aged. The collection, which does not attempt to deal with all the problems of the aged, is documented with clinical data and is divided into four parts: communicating with the aged patient, the aged patient in the institution, the aged individual in the community, and group work with the hospitalized aged. The book is designed primarily for clinicians working with aged clients in the hospital, nursing home, or community.

ETHNICITY AND MENTAL HEALTH: RESEARCH AND RECOMMENDATIONS—by Joseph Giordano, National Project on Ethnic America of the American Jewish Committee, 1973, 50 pages. Available from Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56th Street, New York, New York 10022, \$1.

This publication was written to answer the question, How important to mental health practice in the 1970s are the conscious and unconscious forces of ethnic group life in America? It is part of a series published by the American Jewish Committee's National Project on Ethnic America, funded by the Ford Foundation. The topics covered here include ethnic differences, mental health and ethnicity, the reasons that ethnic populations underuse mental health resources, and strategies for strengthening mental health in lower-class ethnic communities.

THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY SETTING—by Seymour B. Sarason, Ph.D., George Zitnay, and Frances K. Grossman, Ph.D.; Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York, 1971, 98 pages, \$6.50.

The first in a series called *Segregated Settings and the Problem of Change*, this book describes how people think, plan, and act when creating a new setting—the Central Connecticut Regional Center for the mentally retarded, formally established three years earlier. The authors discuss such aspects as the avoidance of a building program and of staff role constraints, the tutoring program, expansion of services to other cities, and alternative ways of involving community groups. The series is intended to explore the causes of and remedies for degrading conditions that are common to segregated settings such as prisons and mental hospitals. ■